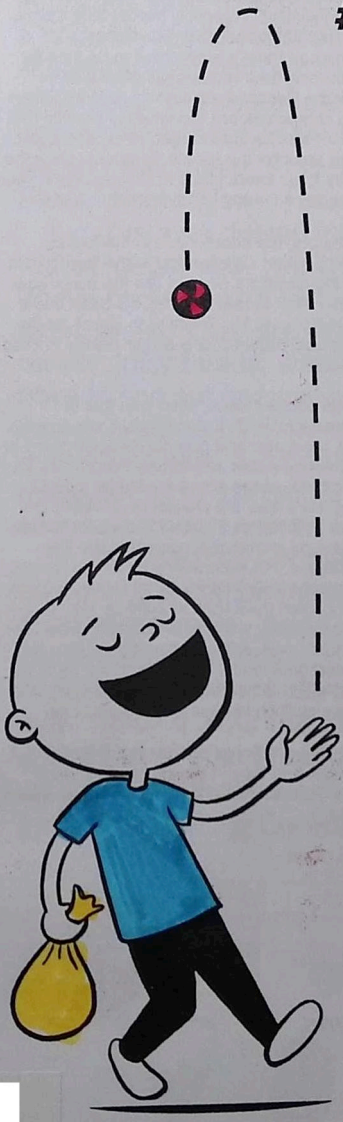
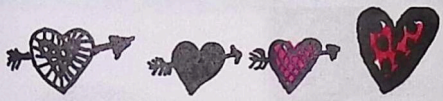
SUGAR NEEDLE

#31





Hey Candy Lovers! Happy 2007! The New Year brings good news; a lot of Republicans are getting sent home, including Rick Santorum, who Dan savage righty made a naughty household word. But get this, according to the Jan.5 *Wall St. Journal* Santorum was the official candyman of the Senate. His home state of Pennsylvania sent him 100 lbs.. of candy a quarter (and, as Needle readers know, Pennsylvania houses the town of Hershey). The article even did the math: that equals 38,000 chocolate kisses! It's true, politicians can't take bribes but apparently it's cool to give away treats made in and provided by your home state.

Santorum is being replaced by Rep. Senator Craig Thomas from Wyoming. Wyoming makes little candy, mostly tourist trap items that look like moose droppings. Although there's something to be said for politicians cramming their mouths full of fake turds before they hit the Senate floor, it's not gonna happen. The Wyoming companies are too small to provide that much candy for free. Corina thought, heck, she'd just lurk around the desk for the Illinois Senators, since the National Candy Expo takes place in Chicago each year expressly because so many candy companies are located there.

But as it turns out, the candy desk in the Senate has a strategic location - it's located in the Republican section, near the elevators (kind of like the mints bowl on the reception desk in restaurants). it's been there since 1968! So it's up to Mr. Thomas to cough up the goods, so to speak, required of a Sugar Daddy to keep the Senate sweet!

We have a fun packed issue, filled with lots of holiday-delivered treats. Our cover artist Craig Bostick is a cartoonist, illustrator and graphic designer living in Boston. He currently writes and draws *Go-Go Girl*, an ongoing comic book series about the lighter side of heavy drinking. He's also the creator of *CRASH: The Life And Death Of A Germ, Fuchsia Galactica Summer Special* and several stories that appear in the *Boy Trouble* anthologies. His illustrations have appeared in various publications including the book *Bazaar Bizarre* by Greg Der Ananian published in 2005 by Viking Studio. Craig's currently working on compiling the *Go-Go Girl* stories into one, sobriety-defying volume. He writes songs and gets loud in SpoilSport, the band he started in 2001 with his boyfriend (now husband), Jon. Check out more stuff on his website: aquaboy.net

Hey our mailboxes are bored and lonely. E-mail's fast, but real mail lasts and lasts! Letters, candies, and sweet musings from all over the world and outer space all accepted by:

Sugar Needle West

[redacted]

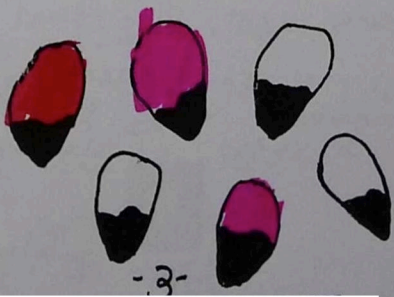
Sugar Needle East

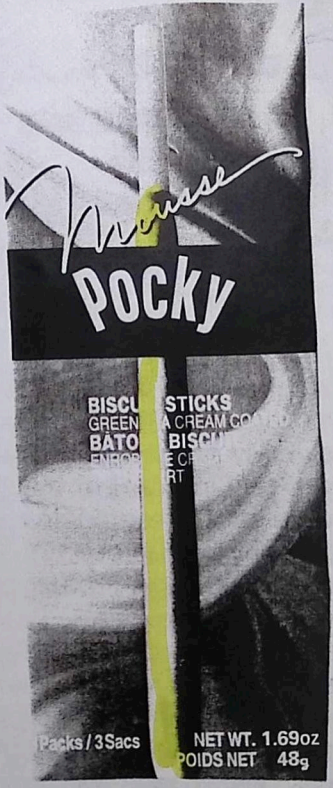
[redacted]

I received two pomegranate gift items this year. The first was really a fake. My friend Rob filled a tall, skinny rectangular box that advertised "Pomegranate Juice" with candy coated peanuts. The second was these "Pomegranate Slices" from Phlox.

If you've ever delved into eating a real pomegranate, you know they do not come in nice semicircle citrus slices. They are like eating messy, juicy beads, with a pit you have to spit out or swallow. How messy are they? When my friend Aysha was little, her parents would make her sit in the bathtub when she ate pomegranates.

So, my imaginary pomegranate candy would combine the best of these two sweets. You'd get hundreds of small pips. Each would have a seed of hard, dark chocolate crowned by a sour red gummy top. It might even squirt red juice when you bit it, like those wonderful Vidal gummy brains. Corina

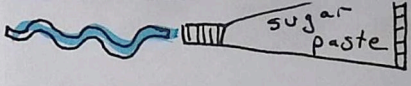




"A wholesome life in the best of taste!"

Pocky Green Tea Mousse is the latest Pocky flavour to cross my desk. I love salty choco. covered pretzels - this isn't like that. I love green tea ice cream - this isn't like that either. This is somewhere inbetween. Somewhere very subtle & very Japanese.

-4- phlox



For $160- Breath Palette will send you 31 tubes of toothpaste in flavours ranging from Fresh Yogurt to Fuji Apple to Cola & beyond. If the 3 digit price tag scares you, mini kits are available for $22 & the "Sweet Tooth" kit caught my eye: Vanilla, Chocolate, Caramel & Pumpkin Pudding. The package is so stark & plain the print wouldn't even show here, but I beg you - if you have this much $ you don't know what to do with, skip the toothpaste I'll send you a list of 31 worthwhile charities!

phlox

okay, so we all know the fun we can have with the Land o' Lakes Lady.

What about Nature's Candy Girl?

what is under that bonnett anyway ???

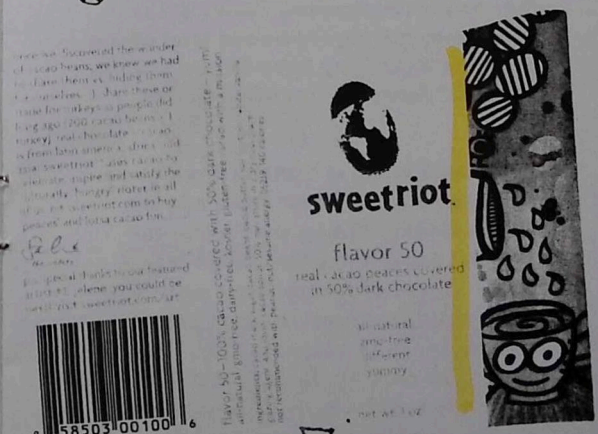
have fun & send your ideas to phlox!

pi

Post Christmas Slump is the worst. The treats start to disappear & everyone is talking about giving up this & that in the New Year. Valentine truffles seem far away ... Then I found a forgotten stocking stuffer in my purse - a cute tin full of goodness & an enclosed fortune!

Cacao Country Nigeria is composed of more than 250 ethnic groups
Get Lucky! 3, 5, 8, 11, 13, 29

Happy New Year!
& phlox



-57-

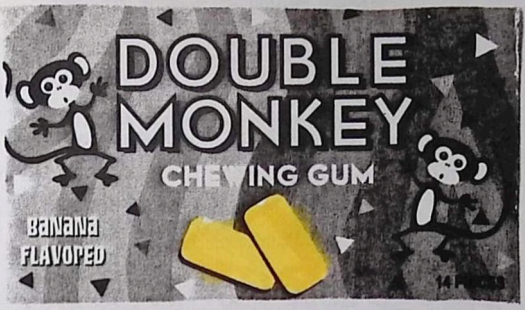
Yummy Delicious!
Tiny Peaces.

BANANARAMA

Face it, there's just not that many candies that come in banana flavor. Well ok, there's those banana-shaped candies that come in that mix of mini-fruits. But given the unique shape of the fruit, it's surprising Sugar Needle hasn't seen many candies incorporating the monkey's favorite food.

I searched a bit on the internet, and I discovered some interesting tidbits about artificial banana flavoring. Apparently, a little goes a looooong way. When confectionary companies use it, they wait until the end of the day. Banana flavoring is so strong, it will flavor any other sweet they make after it, in the same candy mixing machines. And at the end of the night they have to really scrub to get that flavoring out of the tub.

I sampled 2 kinds of banana gum. I was intrigued by the logo for Taxi, and the inviting slogan, "Enjoy the flavour-full ride!" but found the gum tasted like a minty flavored Chicklet. What was even weirder was the sugar coating had sort of faded away, so in spots the gum poked through the coating, making the gum look rather forlorn. Double -monkey Chewing Gum also promised banana flavor, but turned out to be minty-fresh yellow gum cubes.



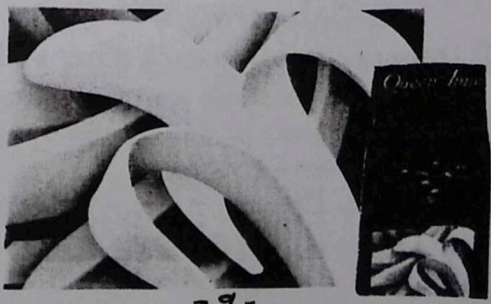
The Queen Anne Chocolate covered bananas were pretty good, but I have to say it was the chocolate, not the bananas, that gave them flavor. Heck the bananas inside could have been boogers.

Banana flavored Laffy Taffy is pretty good. I've read on the Internet that there are banana snow cones, banana flavored

Pocky Sticks, and Twinkies with banana filling, but I've not tasted any of those as yet. Also I found a positive review of banana flavored hookah molasses, in case you want to fire up the hubbly bubbly.

Dear readers, if you find any intriguing banana flavored sweets on your various escapades, send them in so we can review them. After all, yellow doesn't always have to be lemon flavored. Pineapple and grapefruit flavors also welcome.

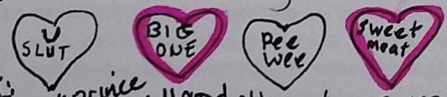
♥ Corina



SAY "I LOVE YOU" IN SUGAR

Do it-yourself ways to extend Valentine's Love through sugar all year long.

♥ Buy some conversation hearts. Use a wet rag to wipe off the stupid sayings. Using a pink or purple pen, carefully write **your OWN** titilating tantilizers.



Hint: Look at prince albums 4 good abbreviations 2 use.

♥ Instead of rose petals, sprinkle sugar + chocolate syrup between the sheets. Have fun!

♥ Choose someone you like, who lives far away, to be your candy penpal. Define the rules:

- ☐ black licorice
- ☐ no gum
- ☐ Only chocolate

Alternate sending each other wonderful surprises. Trust me, you will not regret having a candy penpal. I am so lucky to have found Phloxie.

Phlox + Corina = Candy Penpals **4-ever!**

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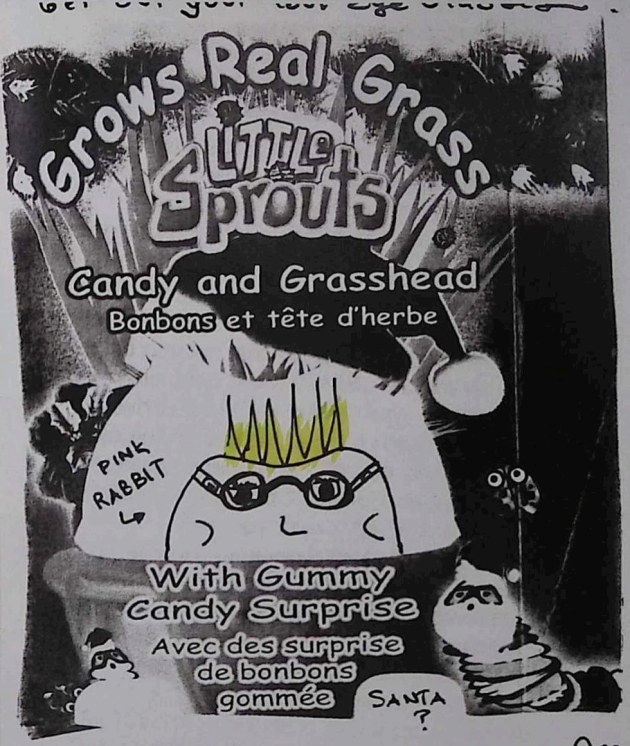
this is why mr. phlox is not allowed ~~to~~ go to the store on a regular basis!
where are the fruits & vegetables?
He can't even find innocent candy bars!
So glad that he is Age Verified
-11-

nothing tells your taste buds it's christmas like screaming hot red & green jalepeno & habenara p'nut brittle from www.puddinhill.com ow ow owhh 2lbs for $25.00 or make your own for those "special" people on your gift list!

they also sell chocolate-covered fruit cake. (:)

YUM!

☆ phlox



ok, we know there are grassheads who enjoy sugar needle & candy - but we need help understanding this one. Or do we? Grow grass & eat candy - makes some sense. Just not for kids especially Candy Surprise is Gummi Worms!

does China know about this?

thanks to Corina for this cool present.

phlox

Only French kids get this.

IMAGINARY PACKAGING

If *Sugar Needle* had it's own candy company, one of the first things we'd mandate is more edible packaging. I get so mad when I see companies come out with packaging that's just going to fill up land fills or end up on the side of the road as litter. A perfect example: potato chips and snacks in plastic tubes, designed to pour down your gullet while you drive! I know it's hard to imagine, but in the olden days it was actually considered *rude* to eat in public. Guess Starbucks wouldn't even exist if that were true now.

So let's start with packing peanuts. I guess there's a kind made of starch that dissolves in water. But between Cheeto-type snacks, like Pirate's Booty, popcorn and sugary circus peanuts, couldn't someone come up with something delicious, so when a package arrives it'd be like getting one of those tin barrels of gourmet popcorn, and if the peanuts ended up outside scattered by the wind, crows would fight to gobble them up?

I'd also look at developing edible styrofoam - you know, those big squeaky hunks of stuff that protect stereos and computers. I think tofu would be a good starting point, if it could be hardened up a bit, but I'll leave it up to the chemists to figure out how to make it edible. Raisins? Chocolate chips maybe?

I think any kind of edible plastic wrap would be fantastic. Imagine unwrapping a sandwich protected in a baggie made of fruit leather! Yum! It could even come in berry and citrus colors.

I think a lot of corrugated cardboard boxes could be replaced with graham cracker/ oatmeal cookie type products.

I knowall this seems like wishful thinking, but it's not so far out. Recently, there's been a lot of candies with edible printing on them, and I read about a weird technology that will allow packaging to

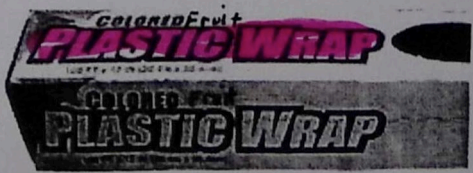
include scents (open a package of cookies and get a fresh whiff of chocolate - from the plastic!)

Well guess what? For once, our imaginary candy wishes are coming true! There actually is research going on to develop edible food wrap. On *productiondaily.com* they mention an experimental anti-microbial food wrap, that looks like plastic wrap but is so thin, it doesn't affect the taste or texture of the food. You may have already had a taste of this cutting edge technology, in the form of those melt-on- your- tongue breath freshener or throat soothing strips. In the future, scientists hope these films could be packed with additional nutrients and bacteria fighting ingredients. For example, the *Journal of Agriculture and Food Chemistry* reported that basil has bacteria-fighting properties, which could help preserve food.These wraps would be used for things like hot dogs, cheese, and sliced fruits and vegetables.

USA Today, 12/16/04 also wrote about an edible coating made of whey, invented by John Krochta and - a wrap made of pureed fruits and vegetables - fruit leather - by Tara McHugh. The whey wrapping tastes bland, but the fruit ones can enhance the thing they wrap, say, a ham you could bake in its apple wrapping. Though these wraps may not be strong enough to totally replace packaging, they could be used for inside barriers or padding.

Wow! Now I'm psyched about fruit leather as a manufacturing material. OK, Sugar Needle would definitely make shower curtains of it. And also, edible bubble wrap! Yum, yum, POP! POP! Yum!

♡ Corina



Back page Back Issues

I'm sure some of you readers need to fill in some gaps in your Sugar Needle reading, and I do have some back issues available. All issues are **$2** a pop (that covers postage) so order now, while supplies last. Here's what I got:

#30 - includes an essay on sugary syrups and a great cover by Craphound artist Sean T.

#29- a rollicking interview with Amy Sedaris, Kit Kats from Asia, book and zine reviews and cover by Dave Kiersh.

#28 -summertime candies, Big Hissy Fit, Australian energy bars reviewed.

#26- SN tours the Seattle Chocolate Co. , candy that will KILL you, Sweet Tooth Awards, and candy ear wax.

#24 - Cover by G.B. Jones, interview with the band The Epoxies, candy spray paint, Bad Ass gum, Snaps reviewed, plus candy almost no one likes!

#21- Crafty candies, cover by cartoonist extraordinaire Androo Robinson, lots of sticky craft ideas, like licorice crochet, candy wrapper books, and gum wrapper chains, interview with Em who works at Candyland in ToysRUs Times Square.

#16 - Sugar Needle goes to Asia! A wealth of candy reviewed from the East.

#12 Believe it or Not Candies...weird, odd candy facts, recipe for Velveeta Cheese fudge, fantastic interview with the band The Handsome Family, and great cover by Keith Saunders.

#8 Insects - your intrepid editors taste all kinds of treats incorporating 6-8 legged critters, real and sugar. Other treats: bug recipes, and Mr. Penis.

#7 the Nutty Issue...lots of nutty candies, and article about nuts, and some good imaginary candies we dreamed up.

#6 Halloween candy featured, advice on making a big rock candy mountain, Goo-goo Clusters and Moon Pops reviewed, amongst others.

SMALL WALL CALENDARS HEROES 2007

I still have some GREAAT small wall calendars, perfect for wallets, guitar cases, and small walls everywhere! They're a **buck**, they're no bigger than a matchbook...order now!

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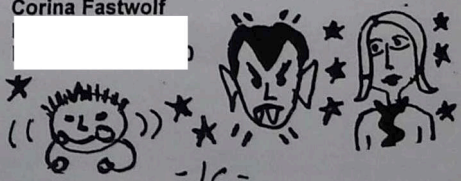
Corina Fastwolf

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